

## **APPENDIX A**

---

### **ANNOUCEMENTS**

*Notice of Intent*

*Newsletter*

*Display Advertisement*

*Press Release*

identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be available for public inspection in their entirety.

Preliminary issues and management concerns have been identified by BLM personnel, other agencies, and various individuals and user groups. The major preliminary issues to be addressed in this planning effort include: vegetation management (including upland and watershed management, riparian areas and wetlands, forests and woodlands, fire and fuels management, wildlife habitat management, special status species, and noxious weeds), water quality/aquatic resources/fisheries, special management areas (including Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, significant caves, wild and scenic rivers, and wilderness study areas); recreation management; cultural and paleontological resources; socioeconomic and environmental justice; energy and minerals; lands and realty; and transportation (including off highway vehicle management and public access).

After public comments are gathered on these and other issues that the plan should address, they will be placed in one of three categories:

1. Issues to be resolved in the plan;
2. Issues to be resolved through policy or administrative action; or
3. Issues beyond the scope of this plan.

The BLM will provide an explanation in the plan as to why we placed an issue in category two or three. In addition to these major issues, a number of management questions and concerns will be addressed in the plan. The public is encouraged to help identify these questions and concerns during the scoping phase.

The BLM will use an interdisciplinary approach to develop the plan in order to consider the variety of resource issues and concerns identified. Specialists with expertise in the following disciplines will be involved in the planning process: Rangeland management, minerals and geology, forestry, fire and fuels, botany, outdoor recreation, archaeology, paleontology, wildlife and fisheries, lands and realty, hydrology, soils, civil engineering, sociology, and economics.

Dated: December 19, 2005.

**Elaine M. Brong,**

*State Director, Oregon/Washington BLM.*

[FR Doc. E6-2388 Filed 2-17-06; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-33-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[NV-040-5101-ER-F336; 6-08807]

#### **Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for a Proposed Coal-Fired Electric Power Generating Plant in Southeastern Lincoln County and Notice of Public Scoping Meetings; Nevada**

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement and Initiate Scoping.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to section 102 (2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Ely Field Office, will be directing the preparation of an environmental impact statement (EIS) and conducting public scoping meetings for the proposed Toquop Energy Power Project, which is a coal-fired electric power generating plant and associated ancillary facilities. BLM has received right-of-way applicants for this project from Toquop Energy Inc. The EIS will assess the potential impacts of a right-of-way for a proposed coal-fired facility and a new railroad line to transport coal to the facility. The Toquop Energy Power Project was previously analyzed in a March 2003 EIS as an 1100 MW gas-fired electric generating facility. Use of an alternative fuel such as coal was eliminated from the 2003 EIS and never analyzed due to economics and other factors at the time.

**DATES:** The publication of this notice initiates the public scoping comment period. Comments on the scope of the EIS, including concerns, issues, or proposed alternatives that should be considered in the EIS must be submitted in writing to the address below. Comments will be accepted until March 23, 2006. Four public scoping meetings are planned during the 30-day scoping period. The meetings will provide the public an opportunity to present comments concerning the Proposed Action that will be addressed in the EIS. The meetings will be held in Reno, Caliente, Mesquite, and Las Vegas, Nevada. The dates, locations, and times of the meetings will be distributed by mail and announced in the local news media on or about the date of this notice.

All comments received at the public scoping meetings or through submitted written comments will aid the BLM in identifying alternatives and mitigating measures to assure all issues are analyzed in the EIS.

**ADDRESSES:** Please mail written comments to the BLM, Ely Field Office, HC 33 Box 33500, Ely, NV 89301, or by visiting the Ely Field Office at 702 North Industrial Way. Comments submitted during this EIS process, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the Ely Field Office during regular business hours 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name and address from public review or disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comments. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or business, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

#### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Doris Metcalf at (775) 289-1852, or e-mail [Doris\\_Metcalf@nv.blm.gov](mailto:Doris_Metcalf@nv.blm.gov). You may also contact Ms. Metcalf at the address above.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On June 15 and June 28, 2001, Toquop Energy Inc. filed applications for Federal Land Policy and Management Act rights-of-way and a temporary use permit to construct and operate an 1100 MW gas-fired power plant to be located in southeast Lincoln County. The applications sought rights-of-way for: (1) An access road from Interstate 15 to the planned project site; (2) a water pipeline, electrical line and well field access road easement running from the proposed power plant site to a terminus point in a proposed well field site in the Tule Desert Area; and (3) a well field in the Tule Desert area and an associated water pump station and equalizer tank. In March 2003, the BLM completed a Final EIS in support of this request. The EIS evaluated the proposed rights-of-way and a No Action alternative. The BLM granted Toquop Energy Inc. the rights-of-way in 2003.

The March 2003 EIS considered evaluating several project and right-of-way alternatives, among which was the use of an alternative fuel such as coal. This alternative was eliminated from the 2003 EIS because project economics did not support such an alternative at the time. Therefore, a coal-fired plant was never analyzed. However, a recent change in market conditions, driven by the ever higher and volatile prices of natural gas, is making this alternative more desirable and economically viable.

The BLM intends to prepare an EIS to re-evaluate the alternative of constructing a 750 MW coal-fired power plant in lieu of an 1100 MW gas-fired power plant and complete studies necessary for a new 36-mile long railroad right-of-way connecting the project site to the existing Union Pacific Railway siding near Leith, NV. The EIS will evaluate, among other things, the alternative of constructing a 750 MW coal-fired power plant, a new railroad access line, coal unloading/handling/storage facilities, a solid waste disposal facility, water storage and treatment facilities, evaporation pond, cooling towers, and electric switchyard and support buildings. The facilities would be generally located within and/or across the following sections of public land:

#### Mount Diablo Meridian

##### Power Plant

T. 11 S., R. 69 E., Section 36.

##### Railroad

T. 8 S., R. 67 E., Sections 14, 15, 23, 26, and 35;

T. 9 S., R. 67 E., Sections 1, 2, 12, and 13;

T. 9 S., R. 68 E., Sections 7, 16, 17, 18, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, and 36;

T. 9 S., R. 69 E., Section 31;

T. 10 S., R. 69 E., Sections 6, 7, 8, 17, 20, 29, 32, and 33;

T. 11 S., R. 69 E., Sections 3, 4, 9, 10, 14, 16, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 34, 35, and 36.

A map of the proposed project is available for viewing at the Bureau of Land Management, Ely Field Office, 702 North Industrial Way, Ely, NV 89301.

Dated: December 15, 2005.

**Gene A. Kolkman,**

*Field Manager.*

[FR Doc. E6-2384 Filed 2-17-06; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-HC-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[OR-936-06-1430-FM; GP6-0023]

#### Termination of Classification and Order Providing for Opening of Land, OR 02752

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This notice terminates the existing classification for 80.00 acres of public land that was classified as suitable for disposal through exchange under section 8 of the Taylor Grazing Act (43 U.S.C. 315g) and opens the land to operation of the public land laws and location and entry under the mining laws, subject to the existing laws, rules, and regulations applicable to public

lands administered by the BLM. The land has been and will remain open to mineral leasing.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** February 21, 2006.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Phyllis Gregory, BLM, Oregon/Washington State Office, P.O. Box 2965, Portland, OR 97208, 503-808-6188.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** By notice published in the **Federal Register** (34 FR 1194) on January 24, 1969, 2,632.83 acres of public land under the jurisdiction of the BLM were classified as suitable for exchange under section 8 of the Taylor Grazing Act (43 U.S.C. 315g). On September 19, 1977, an Order Providing for Opening of Public Lands was published in the **Federal Register** (42 FR 46958) opening 2,360 acres of reconveyed land to entry. However, 80 acres listed in the original Notice of Classification were not included in the exchange and were omitted in the opening order of September 19, 1977. Consequently, these 80 acres are still classified for disposal.

*Notice:* Pursuant to 43 CFR 2091.7-1 (b) (3), the classification is terminated upon publication of this notice in the **Federal Register** for the subject land and is described as follows:

#### Willamette Meridian, Oregon

T. 20 S., R. 44 E.,

Sec. 2, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ .

The area described contains 80.00 acres in Malheur County, Oregon.

*Order:* At 8:30 a.m. on February 21, 2006 the land will be opened to operation of the public land laws generally, subject to valid existing rights, the provisions of existing withdrawals, and the requirements of applicable law. All valid existing applications received at or prior to 8:30 a.m., on March 23, 2006 will be considered as simultaneously filed at that time. Those received thereafter will be considered in the order of filing. At 8:30 a.m. on February 21, 2006 the land will be opened to location and entry under the United States mining laws. Appropriation under the mining laws prior to the date and time of restoration and opening is unauthorized. Any such attempted appropriation, including attempted adverse possession under 30 U.S.C. 38, shall vest no rights against the United States. Acts required to establish a location and to initiate a right of possession are governed by State law where not in conflict with Federal law. The BLM will not intervene in disputes between rival locators over possessory rights since Congress has provided for such determination in local courts.

**Authority:** 43 CFR 2091.1(b).

Dated: February 1, 2006.

**Robert D. DeViney, Jr.,**

*Chief, Branch of Realty and Records Services.*

[FR Doc. E6-2374 Filed 2-17-06; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-33-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[CO-500-1430-EU]

#### Notice of Realty Action: Proposed Modified Competitive Sale and Competitive Sale of Public Lands, Rio Grande and Conejos Counties, CO

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of realty action.

**SUMMARY:** The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) hereby provides notice that it will offer two parcels of public lands located in Rio Grande and Conejos Counties, Colorado, for sale at not less than their respective appraised fair market values. The Del Norte Field Manager has determined that because Parcel 1 has no legal access via any public road and is surrounded by private lands, it will be offered for sale only to the current adjoining landowners under modified competitive sale procedures. The La Jara Field Manager has determined that Parcel 2 has legal access via a public road and will be sold individually under competitive sale procedures open to any person or entity qualified to bid. Sales of both parcels will be by sealed bid only.

**DATES:** Comments regarding the proposed sales must be in writing and received by BLM not later than April 7, 2006.

Sealed bids must be received by BLM not later than 4:30 p.m. MDT, April 24, 2006.

**ADDRESSES:** Address all written comments regarding the proposed sales to BLM San Luis Valley Public Lands Center Manager, Attn: Bill Miller, 1803 West Highway 160, Monte Vista, Colorado 81144. Comments received in electronic form such as email or facsimile will not be considered. Address all sealed bids, marked as specified below, to the SLV PLC at the address above.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT:** Bill Miller, Realty Specialist, at (719) 852-6219.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** In accordance with the provisions of 43 CFR parts 2710 and 2720, the following described lands in Rio Grande and Conejos Counties, Colorado, are



## PUBLIC MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

The BLM would like to invite you to a scoping meeting to help identify the range, or scope, of issues related to the Toquop Energy Project. The issues identified during the scoping process will be considered and addressed during preparation of the environmental impact statement. Please attend one of the following meetings:

Monday, March 20 Caliente Youth Center U.S. Highway 93 Caliente, Nevada	Tuesday, March 21 Mesquite City Hall 2nd Floor Council Chambers 10 E. Mesquite Blvd. Mesquite, Nevada	Wednesday, March 22 BLM-Conference Room 4701 N. Torrey Pines Dr. Las Vegas, Nevada	Thursday, March 23 Meadow Wood Courtyard 5851 S. Virginia Reno, Nevada
--	--	---	---

All meetings will be held between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. A brief presentation will occur at 6:30 p.m.

Bill Mortill  
BLM Project Manager  
BLM Ely Field Office  
702 North Industrial Way  
HC 33 Box 33500  
Ely, Nevada 89301



### Introduction

In April 2003, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Ely Field Office, issued a Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Toquop Energy Project, proposed by Toquop Energy, Inc. (*Proposed Toquop Land Disposal Amendment to the Caliente Management Framework Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Toquop Energy Project, March 2003*). The project analyzed in the EIS was a 1,100-megawatt (MW) natural gas-fired electric power generation plant and associated facilities in Lincoln County in southern Nevada. Toquop Energy, Inc., proposed the project in order to generate electrical power at competitive costs for use by consumers and to address power demand increases due to population growth in the western United States.

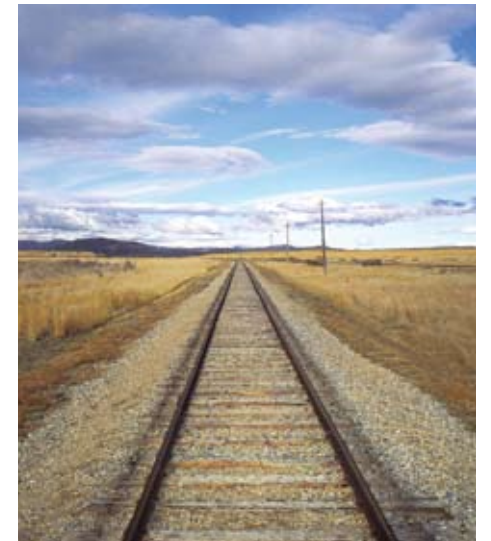
Since that time, natural gas prices have increased substantially. It is anticipated that they will remain volatile and may even increase due to increased demand and higher exploration and development costs. Moreover, newer technology has increased the efficiency of modern coal-fired plants that provide a more stable cost basis for power than that of natural gas. Today, Sithe Global Power, LLC (Sithe), a privately held,

independent power company, proposes to construct a 750-MW coal-fired power plant in the same location as the previously proposed natural gas-fired power plant.

The BLM has determined that although an EIS for the original gas-fired power plant was completed, the newly proposed coal-fired power plant has a number of components that are different from the previously proposed gas-fired technology. These differences warrant the preparation of a new EIS.

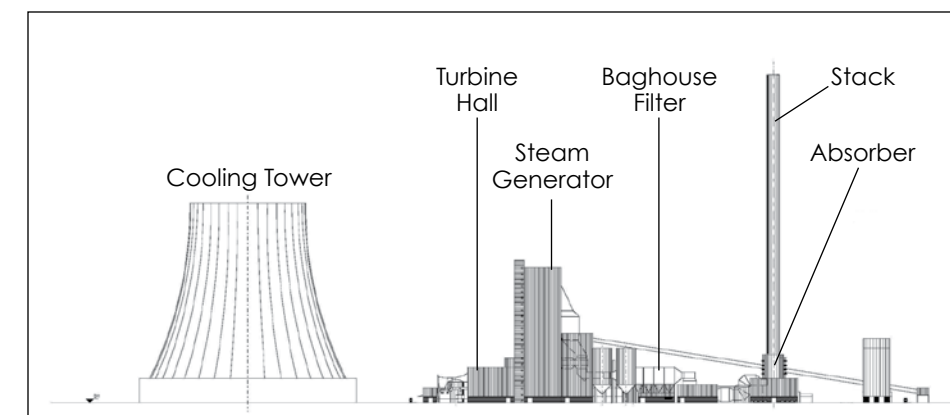
### Purpose and Need

A new, state-of-the-art coal-fired plant would ensure the continued supply of energy to the region. The intended purpose is to generate electric power at a competitive price for use by consumers to serve the power demand growth in the western United States. The unpredictable and escalating price of natural gas make it less attractive as a fuel source than coal. Additionally, coal can be stored on site for several months, which protects against fuel supply disruptions, while natural gas has real potential for delivery disruptions, especially during times of high electricity demand.



More electric power is needed in this region. Rapid population growth in the Southwest, and the West in general, has resulted in an increased demand for electricity. The proposed plant would contribute to meeting the demand for power in the Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC) service area and more specifically would contribute to meeting the capacity and annual energy requirements for southern Nevada, Arizona, and New Mexico.

Additionally, opportunities for new employment and an increased tax base to Lincoln County would be provided by the proposed project. While public land makes up about 98 percent of Lincoln County, limiting opportunities for industrial and commercial development, the proposed power plant would provide both short- and long-term economic benefit. For example, it is estimated that approximately 800 workers would be employed during the four-year construction period and then approximately 110 people would be employed in permanent positions to operate and maintain the plant.



Anticipated Elevation



Location

The proposed Toquop Energy Project is located in southeastern Lincoln County in southern Nevada. The power-plant site is located on a 640-acre parcel near Toquop Wash, approximately 50 miles south-southeast of Caliente, Nevada and 12 miles north-west of Mesquite, Nevada (see map on next page). A new rail spur would be constructed to transport coal from the Union Pacific Railroad at or near Leith Siding to the plant site approximately 35 miles to the southeast.

Project Description

Sithe proposes to construct, operate, and maintain a 750-MW coal-fired power plant and associated facilities, including the new rail spur. The facilities at the power plant site would include a fuel-supply system; a single 750-MW generation unit; water intake structures, distribution pipelines, and evaporation ponds; a plant cooling system; power transmission interconnection facilities; and waste management operations. Approximately 2,500 acre-feet of water per year would be required for cooling and other plant operations. The water would be supplied by existing water rights that have been acquired for the project. The development of

the water supply and the water-supply pipeline was addressed in the previous EIS. To enable distribution of power to the southwestern United States, the Toquop Energy Project would interconnect with existing 345-kilovolt (kV) and 500kV transmission lines as previously studied.

The 2003 Final EIS analyzed and disclosed the potential impacts on the environment from the gas-fired power plant. That document analyzed the proposed site, approximately 14 miles of access road from Interstate 15 to the plant site, approximately 12 miles of buried water pipeline, and the associated pipeline access road. Information gathered for the previous EIS will be updated to reflect changes to date. The major differences include the following and will be addressed in the current EIS:

- The plant capacity would decrease from 1,100 MW to 750 MW.
- The proposed coal-fired power plant has a different and larger site plan than the previously addressed gas-fired plant to accommodate the coal and coal-handling facilities.
- A 35-mile-long rail spur would be constructed for transporting coal to the power plant site.

- Although recent advancements in air pollution control technology for coal-fired power plants have and continue to reduce emissions, emissions would differ from those studied for the gas-fired power plant and need to be addressed.

The EIS Process

The plant and associated features (access road, rail spur, utility corridors) would be on public land that is presently managed by the BLM; therefore, the project is considered a Federal action requiring review under and compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). Under NEPA, actions such as the Toquop Energy Project must consider the potential effects on the environment including human, natural, and cultural resources.

The NEPA compliance process for the proposed project is anticipated to occur within a 12- to 15-month timeframe and consist of several steps as depicted in the flow chart below.

At this early stage in the process, BLM (the lead Federal agency) will identify the range or scope of public and agency issues through comments received in meetings and discussions with relevant agencies and the public.

Once the BLM has an understanding of the issues, the study team will begin to develop an inventory of resource information by gathering data representing human, natural, and cultural resources within the study area. Based on the description of the proposed project and any alternatives to be evaluated; issues identified; and inventoried resource data, the EIS team will comprehensively assess potential impacts and identify measures to mitigate, or reduce those impacts on the following resources:

**Human Environment** – land use, social and economic conditions, environmental justice, visual characteristics, noise

**Natural Environment** – air, geology, soils, water, vegetation, wildlife, special status species

**Cultural Environment** – prehistoric and historic archaeological sites, and traditional cultural lifeways and resources

Public Scoping

BLM fully understands the importance of involving the public and agencies in the process. A very important part of the process is to solicit the public and agencies for comments on the proposed project. At this early stage in the process BLM is encouraging comments from agencies and the public to identify issues and concerns that are important to the public in the region and that need to be addressed in the EIS. Further, these types of processes tend to evolve over time. It is through an exchange of ideas and development of common ground that the process responds most effectively to concerns and issues identified for the project.

The first opportunity for you to participate will be the upcoming public



scoping meetings. These public meetings are planned for Caliente, Mesquite, Las Vegas, and Reno, Nevada in March of 2006 as noted on the back of this newsletter. These meetings also will be announced in local newspapers and on the project website at [www.toquopenergy.com](http://www.toquopenergy.com). Comments can be submitted orally or in writing at the public meetings, through a link on the Toquop Energy Project EIS web page, or by mail.

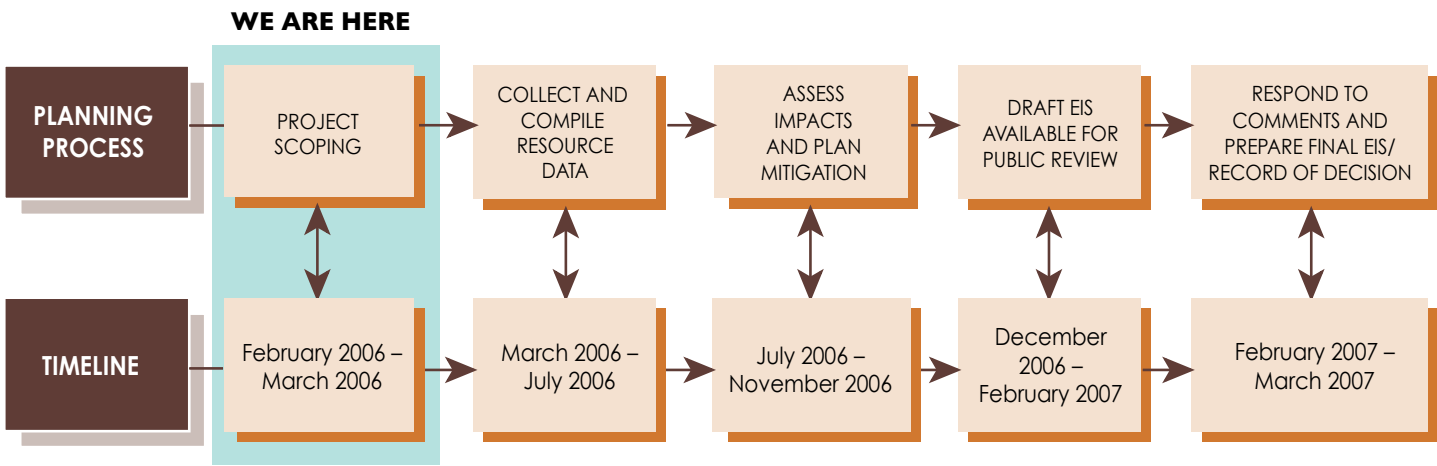
The public meetings will begin with a brief presentation that will provide an overview of the project and EIS process, followed by an open house environment where questions can be asked or comments can be submitted.

Your thoughts, comments, and concerns are important to us throughout

the process, but especially right now at this early stage! Please attend one or more of the four scoping meetings and/or send us your written comments before the 30-day scoping period ends.

BLM will provide other opportunities throughout the process to discuss the status of the process, and BLM will ask you to review the Draft EIS, which will be released to the public for review for a 45-day period. During that 45-day period, BLM will conduct public hearings to accept comments on the draft document. Written comments also will be accepted during that time.

If you have questions, would like to be on the mailing list, or would like to speak to a project representative, please contact BLM Project Manager Bill Morrill at 775-225-8564.





# PUBLIC MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is holding public scoping meetings to receive comments on a proposed coal-fired power plant in Lincoln County approximately 12 miles northwest of Mesquite, Nevada. The power plant would be located on a site previously approved by the BLM for construction of a natural gas-fired power plant. Please plan to attend one of the following meetings:

**Monday,  
March 20**

Caliente Youth Center  
U.S. Highway 93  
Caliente, Nevada

**Tuesday,  
March 21**

Mesquite City Hall  
2nd Floor –  
Council Chambers  
10 E. Mesquite Blvd.  
Mesquite, Nevada

**Wednesday,  
March 22**

BLM Conference Room  
4701 N. Torrey Pines Dr.  
Las Vegas, Nevada

**Thursday,  
March 23**

Meadow Wood  
Courtyard  
5851 S. Virginia  
Reno, Nevada

All meetings will be held between 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. with a brief presentation at 6:30 p.m. For questions on this project please contact Bill Morrill, BLM Project Manager, at 775-225-8564.

## **PRESS RELEASE DISTRIBUTION LIST**

### **General Media**

#### **Television Stations**

KCLV TV 2 (City of Las Vegas)  
KVBC TV 3  
Channel 4 (Clark County)  
KVVU TV 5  
KLAS TV 8  
LV 1  
KLVX TV 10  
KTNV TV 13  
KFBT TV 33  
KVWB TV 21

#### **Newspapers**

<b>(Daily)</b>	Las Vegas Review-Journal Las Vegas Sun The View Associated Press Los Angeles Times
<b>(Weekly)</b>	LV Business Press In Business City Life Las Vegas Weekly Las Vegas Mercury Bullseye NAFB Boulder City News Laughlin Times LV Sentinel Voice LV Asian Journal
<b>(Monthly)</b>	Business Voice Construction Connection Las Vegas Life U.S. Asian Chronicle Las Vegas Senior Press Nevada Senior World News Senior Spectrum Look North Construction Zone
<b>(Other)</b>	Henderson Home News Jewish Reporter Las Vegas Israelite The Beehive Home & Hearth Nevada Development Authority

High Country News

**Radio**

KCEP 88.1 FM  
KHWY 98-99 FM  
KNPR 89.5 FM  
KUNV 91.5 FM  
KNUU 970 AM  
KDWN 720 AM  
KLAV 1230 AM  
Metro Skyview Traffic  
KSNE 106.5 FM  
KBGO 93.1 FM  
KWNR 95.5 FM  
KWLD 101.9 FM  
KMZQ 100.5 FM  
KXTE 107.5 FM  
KLUC 98.5 FM  
KSNF 1140 AM  
KMXB 94.1 FM  
KXNT 840 AM  
KOMP 92.3 FM  
KXPT 97.1 FM  
KBAD 920 AM  
KENO 1460 AM  
KKLZ 96.3 FM  
KJUL 104.3 FM  
KTSJ 105.5 FM .

**Spanish Language Media**

**Television**

Telemundo KBLR TV 39  
Univision KINC TV 15

**Newspapers**

El Mundo Newspaper  
El Herald Newspaper  
El Tiempo Libre  
Latin American Press

**Radio**

KLSQ 870 AM  
KISF 103.5 FM  
KDOX 1280 AM  
KLAV 1230 AM  
KVBC 105.1 FM  
KRLV 1340 AM

**Misc. Media**

Barb Henderson



Nevada Business Journal  
Nevada Magazine  
Sunset Magazine  
What's On magazine  
Where Magazine of Las Vegas  
Tour Guide of Las Vegas

## **Elected Officials**

### **Senators**

Harry Reid  
John Ensign

### **Congressman**

Shelly Berkley  
Jim Gibbons

### **State Senate**

Maggie Carlton  
John Porter

### **State Governor**

Kenny Guinn

### **Mayors**

Oscar Goodman, Las Vegas  
Mike Montandon, North Las Vegas  
Jim Gibson, Henderson  
Robert Ferraro, Boulder City

### **Other**

Councilmen from above-listed cities  
Clark County Commissioners

# ***BLM News***

ELY FIELD OFFICE NO. 06-023

FOR RELEASE: Thursday, March 2, 2006

CONTACT: Chris Hanefeld (775) 289-1842

## **- CORRECTED VERSION -**

### **BLM Ely District Requests Public Input on Toquop Energy Project EIS**

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Ely Field Office is asking for the public's input in the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Toquop Energy Project.

The EIS will evaluate any potential impacts that the proposed 750-megawatt (MW) coal-fired power plant and associated facilities, to be located near Toquop Wash, in Lincoln County, Nev., would have on human, natural and cultural resources, as well as to determine what measures would be necessary to mitigate or reduce said impacts. The electric power-generating facility, proposed by Sithe Global Power, LLC, would be located on a 640-acre parcel of land 50 miles south-southwest of Caliente, Nev.

In 2003, an EIS and other permitting requirements were completed for a 1,100-megawatt natural gas-fired power plant in the same location. BLM has determined that a new EIS must be completed to evaluate the components of the proposed project that vary from previously permitted technology and facilities. These components include the reduction of plant capacity from 1,100 to 750 MW, an expanded site plan for coal and coal-handling facilities, construction of a rail spur for the coal, and the change in technology for a coal-fired facility, including air pollution control technology. The plant would require up to 2,500 acre-feet of water annually and would be supplied by existing water rights purchased via the Lincoln County Water District. The water supply and pipeline were addressed in the previous EIS. The Toquop Energy Project would interconnect with existing 345-kilovolt (kV) and 500kV transmission lines as previously studied.

The BLM has contracted with URS, of Las Vegas, Nev., to help prepare the EIS. URS has assisted the BLM with other projects in the Great Basin area and has experience with coal-fired power generation, rail lines, transmission and pipelines, and more.

The BLM and URS have scheduled four public scoping meetings in Nevada. Meetings are scheduled from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., with a brief presentation scheduled at 6:30 p.m. Dates and locations are: Monday, March 20, Caliente Youth Center, U.S. Highway 93, Caliente; Tuesday, March 21, Mesquite City Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Council Chambers, 10 E. Mesquite Blvd., Mesquite; Wednesday, March 22, BLM Conference Room, 4701 N. Torrey Pines Dr., Las Vegas; Thursday, March 23, Meadow Wood Courtyard, 5851 S. Virginia, Reno.

(more)

The formal public scoping process concludes at 5 p.m., Thursday, March 23, 2006. Interested individuals should address all written comments to the BLM Ely Field Office, HC 33 Box 33500, Ely, Nev., 89301.

For more information, contact Project Manager Bill Morrill, at (775) 225-8564.

- BLM -

## **APPENDIX B**

---

### **PUBLIC SCOPING MEETINGS**

*Boards*

*Presentation*

*Sign-in sheet*

*Comment form*



# PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

*The BLM wants your input on the scope or range of issues related to the Toquop Energy Project. The issues identified during scoping will be considered and addressed during preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).*

– MARCH 2006 –





## Purpose of the Toquop Energy Project

- To generate power at competitive prices for use by consumers in southern Nevada, Arizona, and New Mexico
- To meet growing demand for power in the southwestern United States

## Need for the Toquop Energy Project

- To serve existing and future needs for power due to rapid population growth in Nevada and the southwestern United States
- Provide fuel diversity in a region that is heavily dependent on natural gas for electric generation
- Provide needed capacity to meet load growth and improve reliability of the electrical system
- Increase the tax base in Lincoln County, generate tax revenue for local jurisdictions, and provide employment







## Project History

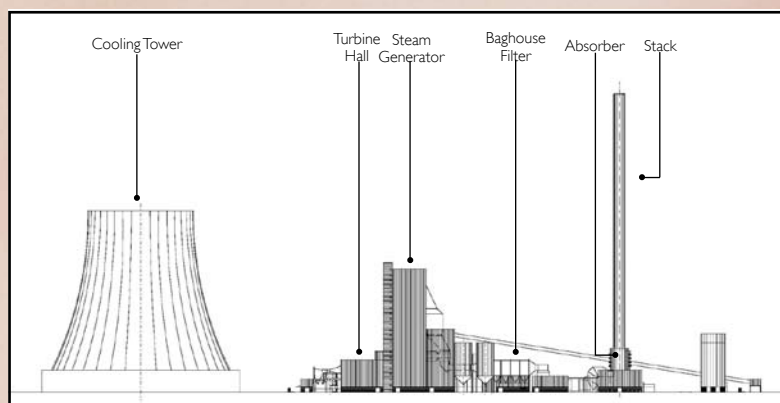
- **1,100-megawatt natural-gas fired plant was approved by the BLM in 2003 on the same project site**
- **Since 2003, natural gas prices have increased substantially**
- **Newer technology has increased the efficiency of coal-fired plants**
- **The current proposed project changes the fuel source, technology, and other aspects of the power plant proposed in 2003**
- **BLM has determined that a new EIS should be prepared to evaluate these differences, including:**
  - *Decreased capacity from 1,100 MW to 750 MW*
  - *Larger site plan*
  - *Construction of a 31-mile-long rail spur*
  - *Changes in air emissions*
  - *Reduced water use*





## Project Description

- **A state-of-the-art 750-megawatt coal-fired power plant and associated facilities**



**Anticipated Elevation**

- **A 31-mile rail spur to transport coal to the power plant site**
- **Other facilities include water-supply infrastructure, power transmission line interconnection, and access roads**
- **Estimated construction cost is \$1.2 billion**
- **Construction would begin in 2007 with estimated online date of 2011**



## Project Description

- **Use of state-of-the-art technology**
- **Advanced emissions controls**
- **High-efficiency boiler – reduces carbon dioxide emissions and fuel use by 15% to 20%**
- **Hybrid dry cooling - reduces annual water use by 80% to about 2,500 acre-feet**
- **Municipal waste water will be used, when available**
- **Design eliminates wastewater discharge**



## EIS Studies

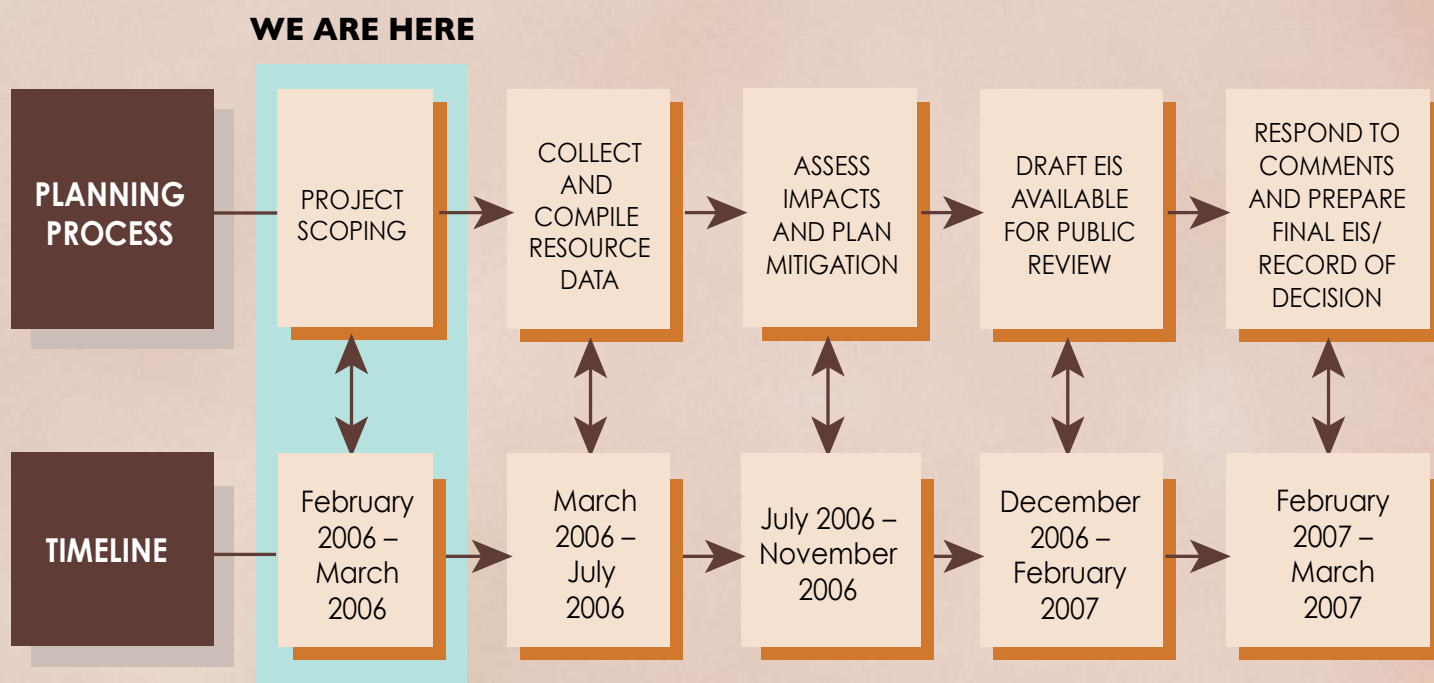
The EIS will analyze the existing local environment and potential impacts that could occur as a result of the proposed project. Ways to mitigate, or reduce, impacts on the environment also will be identified. Topics to be addressed in the EIS include:

- **Human Environment** - land use, social and economic conditions, environmental justice, visual characteristics, noise
- **Natural Environment** - air, geology, soils, water, vegetation, wildlife, special status species
- **Cultural Environment** - prehistoric and historic archaeological sites, and traditional cultural lifeways and resources



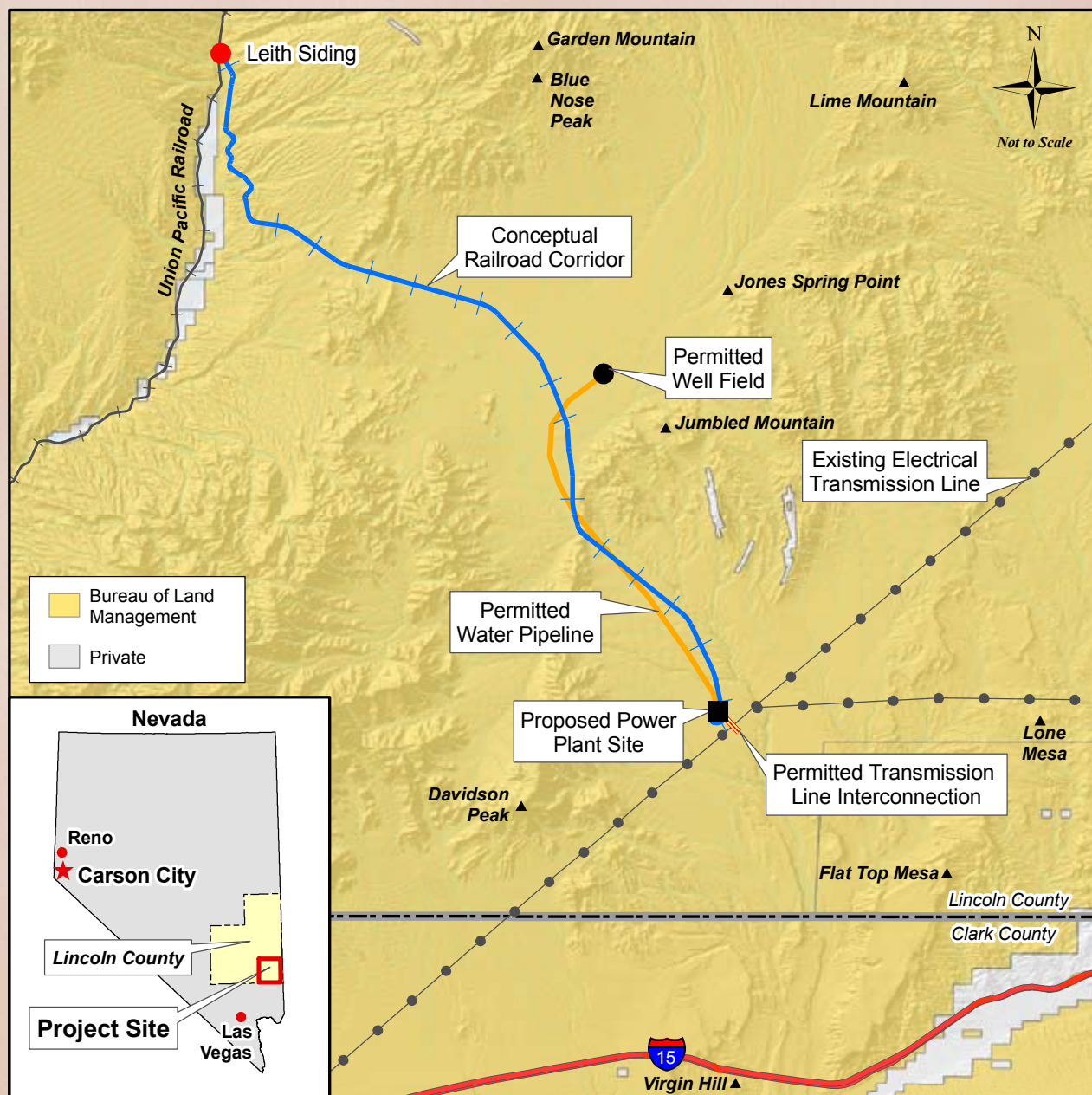


## Planning Process





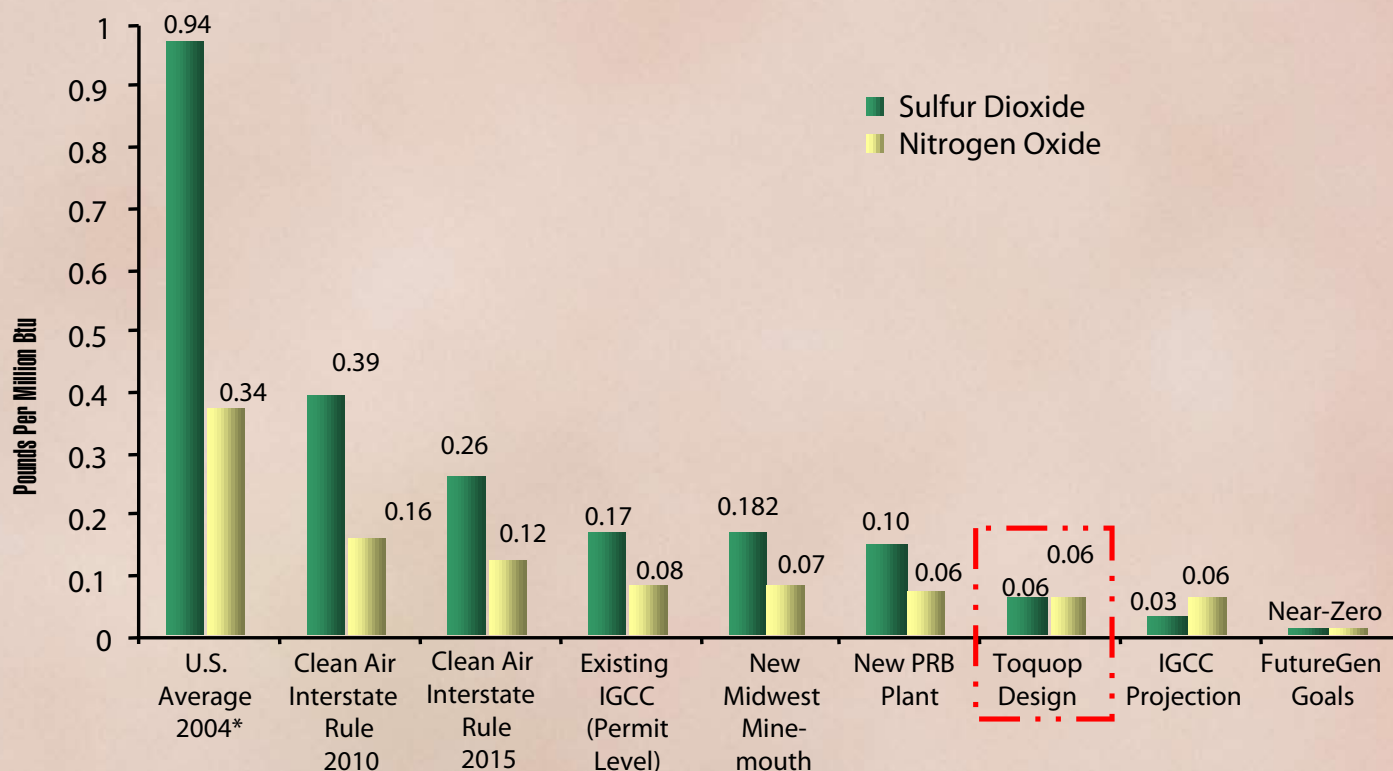
## Project Location







## Emissions from Coal-Fired Generating Plants



Source: EPA's Clean Air Markets database; EIA 2004 Annual Energy Outlook; GE Energy; SFA Pacific





## How to Make Your Comments Most Effective...

*One comment can make a difference.*

- Identify specific information that should be considered during the EIS process
- Offer a specific idea of how to address a particular concern
- Provide specific information about how a particular element of the project would affect you
- Speak to a project team member if you have any questions on project information



## Public Information and Feedback Opportunities

- **30-day scoping period to identify initial project issues**

- **Scoping meetings:**

**Monday,  
March 20**

Caliente Youth Center  
U.S. Highway 93  
Caliente, Nevada

**Tuesday,  
March 21**

Mesquite City Hall  
2nd Floor –  
Council Chambers  
10 E. Mesquite Blvd.  
Mesquite, Nevada

**Wednesday,  
March 22**

BLM Conference Room  
4701 N. Torrey Pines Dr.  
Las Vegas, Nevada

**Thursday,  
March 23**

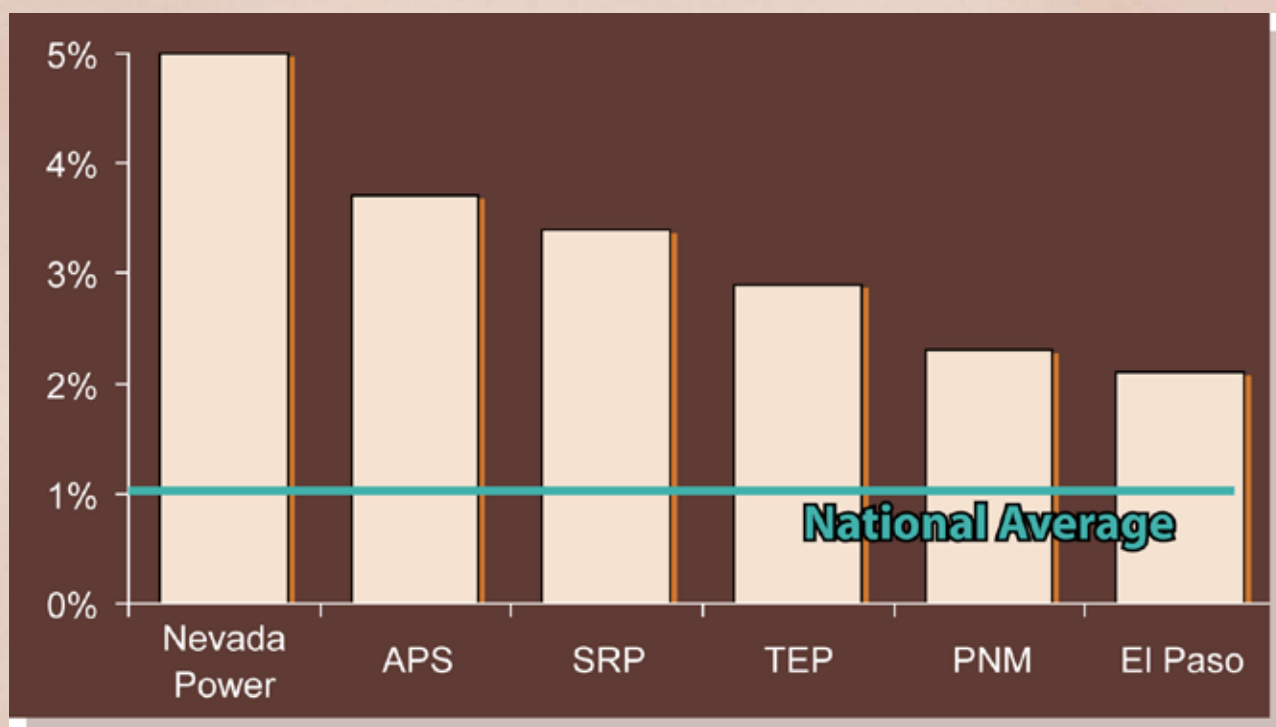
Meadow Wood Courtyard  
5851 S. Virginia  
Reno, Nevada

- **Public meetings and 45-day public review on Draft EIS in late 2006**
- **Mailing list and newsletters throughout project**
- **Project website [www.toquopenenergy.com](http://www.toquopenenergy.com)**
- **Contact BLM Project Manager Bill Morrill, 775-225-8564**





## Average Annual Customer Growth Rates For Southwestern Utilities 1998-2003



Load growth rates experienced by utility companies in Nevada, Arizona, and New Mexico are 3 times the national average.





# Sithe Global Power, LLC



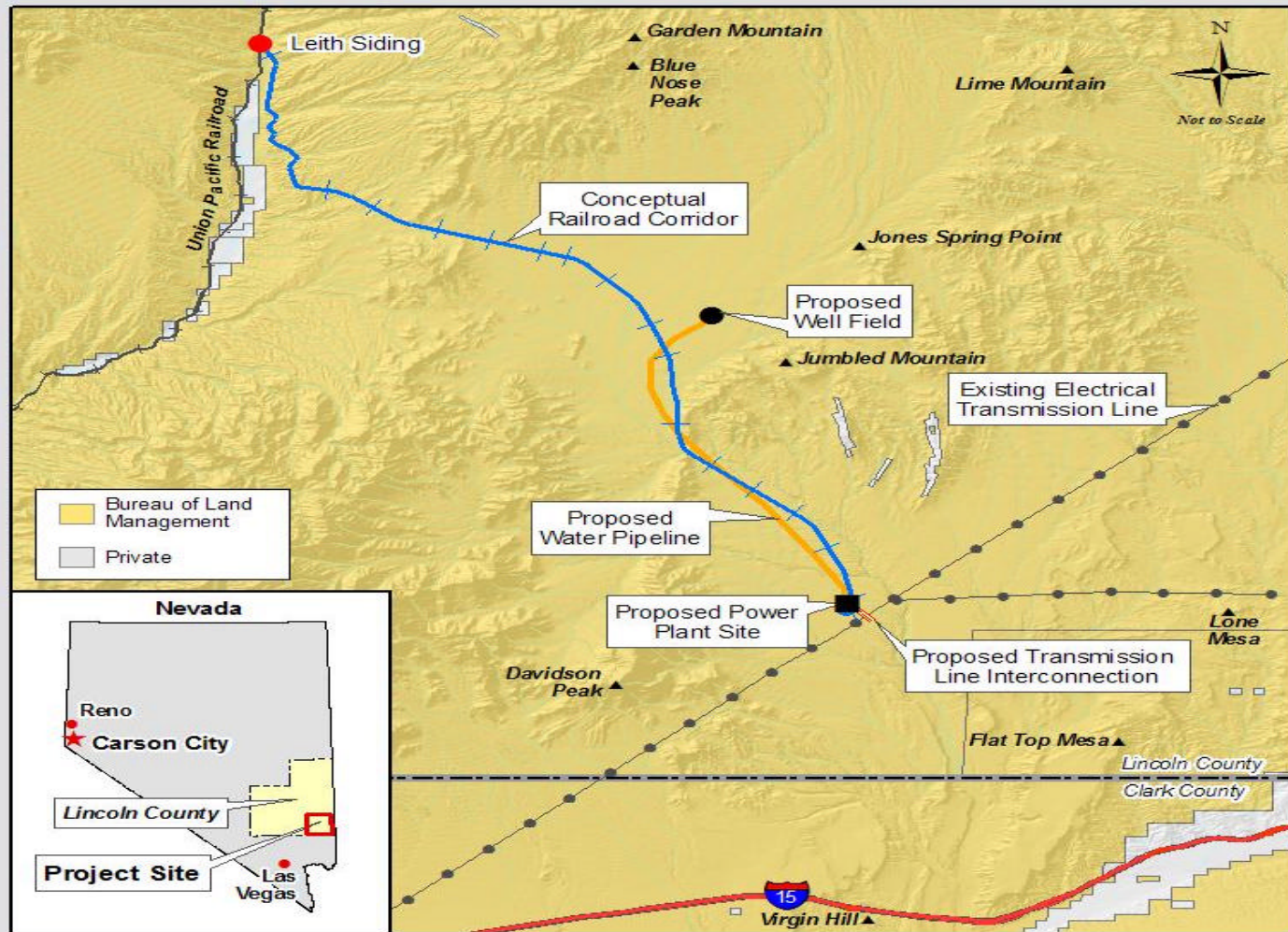
## Toquop Energy Project

# Toquop Energy Project

- A 750 MW Coal fired electric generating plant
- Located 12 miles northwest of Mesquite, NV in Lincoln County
- Estimated Cost \$1.2 billion
- Construction is scheduled to begin in 2007 with an online date of 2011
- Site was originally permitted as a 1,100 MW gas fired electric plant.
- Dry Cooling – Reduces Annual Water Use by 80% to under 2,500 AF/year. The project has agreed to use municipal waste water as available for the water source.
- Supercritical Boilers – Reduces CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and fuel use by 15-20%
- Toquop's emission rates are expected to be among the lowest ever permitted in the US



# Toquop Location



# Local Economic Benefits

- Construction of the plant will increase the assessed value in Lincoln County over 12 times and become the largest tax payer in Lincoln County.
- An average of 800 construction jobs over the four-year construction period and over 110 full-time operations jobs.
- Direct and indirect payroll during the construction will average \$150 million per year.

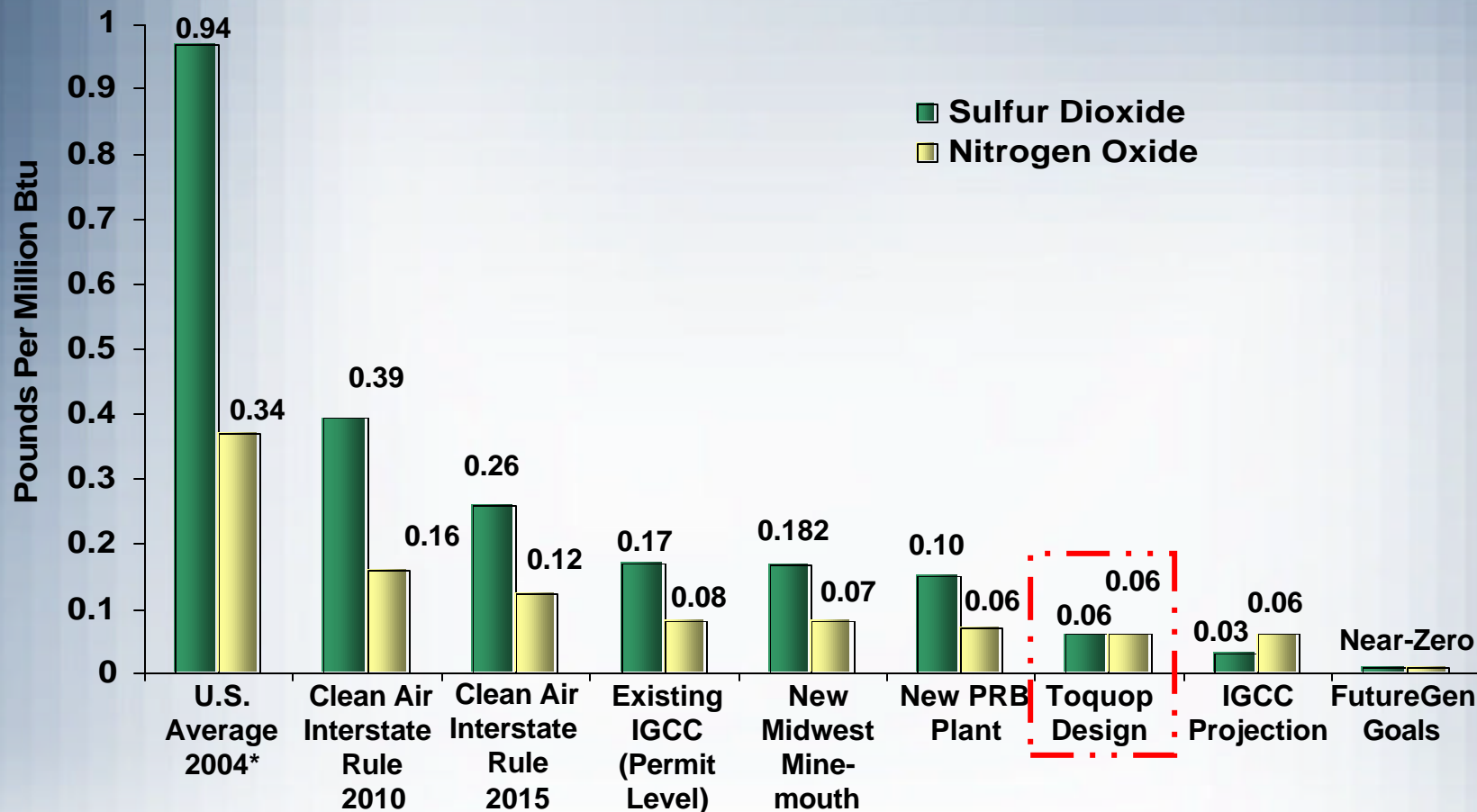
# Project Development Philosophy

Minimizing environmental effects through use of

- Avoidance of environmental impacts through the use of alternative solutions
- low-sulfur coal from Wyoming's Powder River Basin
- state-of-the-art emissions controls
- super-critical, pulverized-coal units to minimize CO<sub>2</sub> emissions
- natural-draft dry-cooling to minimize need for water, water will come from municipal waste water when available
- design that eliminates wastewater discharge
- a marketing strategy to sell combustion waste (gypsum and fly ash)

# Toquop: The Next Step To Near-Zero Emissions From Coal-Fired Generating Plants

## *Emissions from Coal-Fired Generating Plants*



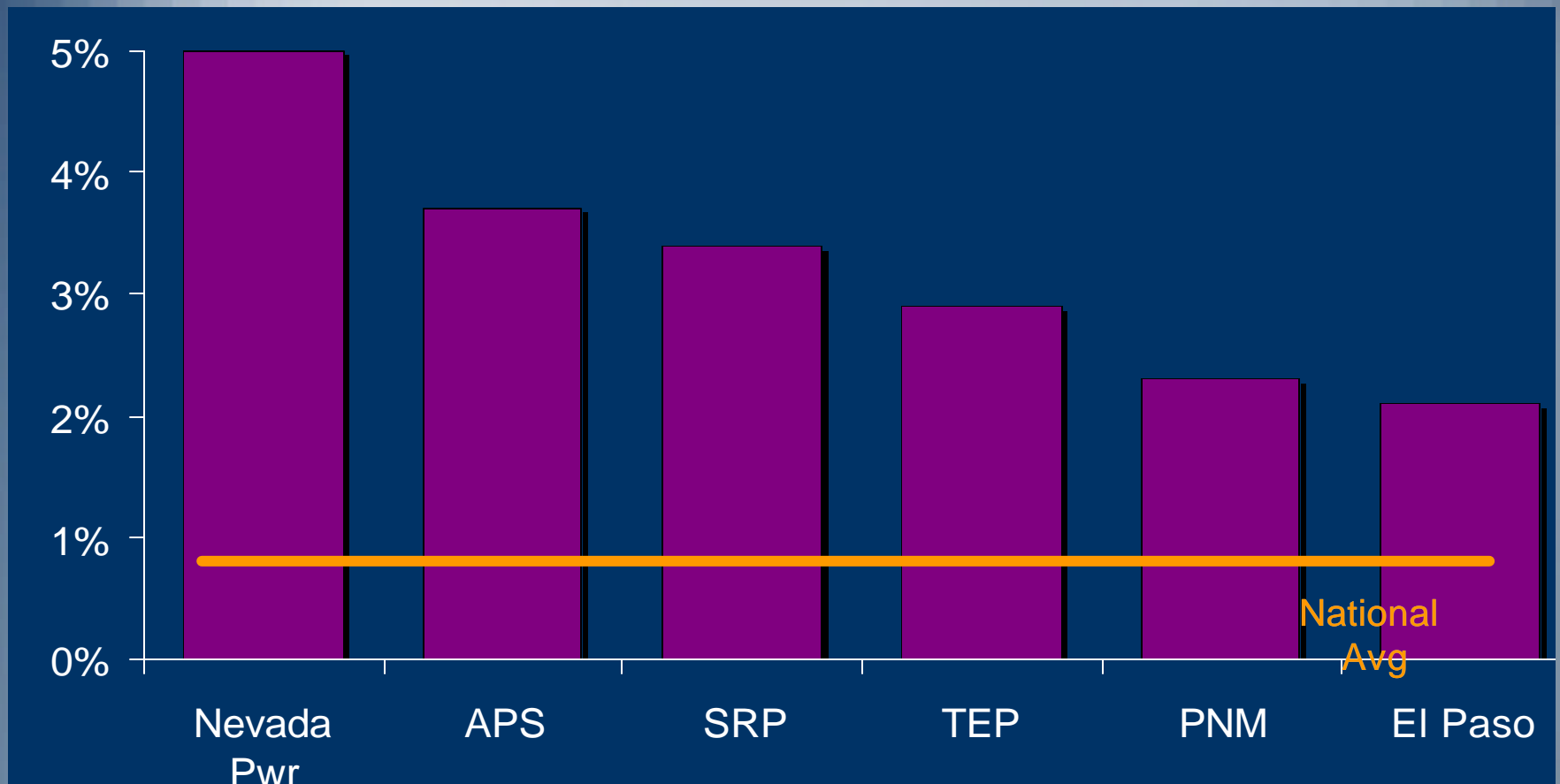
\* Estimate

Source: EPA's Clean Air Markets database; EIA 2004 Annual Energy Outlook; GE Energy; SFA Pacific.

\*\* Estimate

# Southwest Growth Rates are 3X the National Average

Avg. Annual Customer Growth Rates  
1998 - 2003





# Benefits to Electric System

- Provides capacity need to meet rapid load growth in Southern Nevada and the South West.
- The plant will provide fuel diversity in a region that is heavily dependent on natural gas for electric generation.
- Plant location is close to Las Vegas Load center and will improve reliability of the electrical system.



# Toquop Energy Project – Working for Tomorrow's Needs - Today

## **The goals of the Toquop Project:**

- Provide needed energy at a reasonable cost;
- Use the best technology for energy production to limit impacts;
- Provide benefits to Lincoln County and surrounding communities;
- Be a Good Neighbor.



### PLEASE SIGN IN

March 2006

Name	Mailing Address	Phone Number	Do you wish to be added to the mailing list for this project?	Do you want your personal information withheld?
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

Copies of this sign-in form may become part of the public record associated with this proposed project. Individuals requesting that their name and address be withheld from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act must check "Yes" in the personal information column. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law.

[illegible]



## **APPENDIX C**

---

### **AGENCY COORDINATION AND CONSULTATION**

*Cooperating agency letter and mailing list*

*Section 107 letter*

*Tribal consultation letter and mailing list*

## COOPERATING AGENCY INVITATION LIST

### FEDERAL

Mr. Robert Williams, Field Supervisor  
**U.S. Fish and Wildlife**  
Ecological Services Field Office  
1340 Financial Boulevard, Suite 234  
Reno, Nevada 89502-7147

Assistant Field Supervisor  
**US Fish & Wildlife**  
Southern Nevada Field Office  
4701 North Torrey Pines Drive  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89130

Ms. Sue Nall  
St. George Regulatory Office  
**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**  
321 North Mall Drive, Suite L-101  
St George, UT 84790- 7314

Mr. William Dickinson, Superintendent  
**National Park Service**  
Lake Mead National Recreation Area  
601 Nevada Way  
Boulder City, NV 89005  
702.293.8920

### STATE

Mr. Leo Drozdoff, P.E., Administrator  
**Nevada Division of Environmental Protection**  
901 South Stewart Street  
Suite 4001  
Carson City, NV 89701

Mr. Terry Crawford, Administrator  
**Nevada Department of Wildlife**  
Reno Headquarters  
1100 Valley Road  
Reno, Nevada 89512

Ms. Zosia Targosz, Coordinator  
**Nevada State Clearinghouse**  
Blasdel Building, Room 200  
209 East Musser St.  
Carson City, NV 89701

Ms. Alice M. Baldrice,  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer  
**State Historic Preservation Office (Nevada)**  
100 North Stewart Street  
Carson City, NV 89701-4285

**COUNTY**

County Commissioners  
Attn: Ronda Hornbeck  
**Lincoln County**  
PO Box 685  
Pioche, Nevada 89043





# United States Department of the Interior

## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Ely Field Office  
HC 33 Box 33500 (702 No. Industrial Way)  
Ely, Nevada 89301-9408  
<http://www.nv.blm.gov/>

In Reply Refer To:  
2850 (NV-043)  
N-77484

MAR 14 2006

LDM 3-13-06

CERTIFIED MAIL  
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Ms. Zosia Targosz  
Coordinator  
Nevada State Clearinghouse  
Blasdel Building, Room 200  
209 East Musser St.  
Carson City, NV 89701

Dear Ms. Targosz:

The Ely Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has begun the process of preparing an environmental impact statement (EIS) to assess the potential impacts of a 750-megawatt coal-fired power generation plant and associated facilities in Lincoln County, Nevada, approximately 15 miles northwest of the City of Mesquite (see attached map). In 2003, an EIS and other permitting requirements were completed for a 1,100-megawatt natural gas-fired power plant in the same location. However, the proposed project for this location has changed in response to (1) the volatility of natural gas prices and subsequent effects on the feasibility of natural gas-fired power generation, and (2) the development of new technology that increases the efficiency of coal-fired power plants. As a result, BLM has determined that a new EIS must be completed to evaluate the components of the proposed project that vary from previously permitted technology and facilities.

The proposed project to be evaluated in the new EIS includes the following:

- Reduction of plant capacity from 1,100 to 750 megawatts
- Expansion of the site plan to accommodate coal and coal-handling facilities
- Construction of a rail spur for transporting coal to the plant site
- Change in technology required to change to a coal-fired facility, including air pollution control technology

Preparation of this EIS will require the best efforts of the BLM and its collaborative partners who

have special expertise or jurisdiction by law with respect to a proposal. Therefore, pursuant to 40 CFR 1501.6, this letter is to invite your participation as a cooperating agency in this planning effort.

Please respond in writing by describing any jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to any environmental impact you would have as a cooperating agency. As a cooperating agency your participation may include those activities included in 40 CFR 1501.6(b). A Memorandum of Agreement between the parties will be developed that identifies the respective responsibilities of BLM and the cooperating agency in preparing the EIS.

If you have any questions please contact Dr. William Morrill at 775 225-8564. You may also send an e-mail to [billmorrill@SRK.com](mailto:billmorrill@SRK.com).

Sincerely,

*/s/ Jeffrey A. Weeks*

Jeffrey A. Weeks  
Assistant Field Manager  
Nonrenewable Resources

Enclosure

1) Map

DMetcalf:dam

# United States Department of the Interior

## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Ely Field Office  
HC 33 Box 33500 (702 No. Industrial Way)  
Ely, Nevada 89301-9408  
<http://www.nv.blm.gov/>

In reply refer to:

2850 (NV-043)

N-77484

BLM 4-20-06

CERTIFIED MAIL  
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

APR 21 2006

### Memorandum

To: Supervisor, Fish and Wildlife Service, Las Vegas, Nevada

From: Assistant Field Manager, Nonrenewable Resources, Ely, Nevada

Subject: Request for Informal Section 7 Consultation for the White Pine Energy Power Project

RE: Request to Reinitiate Section 7 Consultation for the Toquop Energy Project Environmental Impact Statement.

The Ely Field Office of the Nevada Bureau of Land Management (BLM) would like to reinitiate the Section 7 informal consultation process for the proposed construction and operation of the Toquop Energy Project near Toquop Wash approximately 50 miles south-southeast of Caliente, Nevada and 12 miles northwest of Mesquite, Nevada. The Toquop Energy Project was initially proposed as an 1,100 megawatt (MW) gas-fired power plant, located on approximately 640 acres of land managed by the BLM. With BLM as the lead federal agency, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and formal Section 7 consultation for the Toquop Energy Project were completed in 2003. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) issued a Biological Opinion for the proposed action on 16 June 2003 (File 1-5-02-F-494), with a finding of "no jeopardy" to desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*) populations. Following approval of the EIS and issuance of BLM right-of-way permits, plans to construct the facility were halted. Following this, the project proponent sold the development rights for the Toquop Energy Project to Sithe Global Energy, Inc.

Recently, plans to develop the Toquop Energy Project have been submitted to the BLM Ely Field Office by Sithe Global Energy, Inc. However, several significant changes to the project development plan have been incorporated. As a result of these changes, environmental approval from the lead federal agency (BLM) requires that environmental impacts of the redesigned Toquop Energy Project be evaluated in an updated EIS. Public scoping for the EIS was

concluded on March 23, 2006. The EIS will evaluate the potential environmental impacts associated with the construction and operation of the updated Toquop Energy Project and any other associated actions. Likewise, changes to the Toquop Energy Project will require that impacts to federally listed endangered, threatened, candidate and proposed species be re-evaluated per the Endangered Species Act.

### *Consultation History*

Two formal consultations directly relating to the Toquop Energy Project have taken place since 1999. In 2002, formal consultation was reinitiated on an amendment to the Caliente Management Framework Plan (CMFP; File Number 1-5-99-F-450.R). Consultation was reinitiated to add the 640-acre parcel proposed for the Toquop Energy Project to the potential land disposal areas identified in the CMFP Amendment and to analyze the effects of the proposed land disposal addition on the desert tortoise. Also in 2002, Formal Consultation was conducted (File 1-5-02-F-494) to evaluate the potential impacts on listed species associated with the initial proposed Toquop Energy Project. In addition to the finding of "no jeopardy" to desert tortoise populations during the previous formal consultation (File 1-5-02-F-494) for the construction, operation and maintenance of the power plant, the USFWS also determined that the proposed project was not likely to adversely affect the woundfin (*Plagopterus argentissimus*), Virgin River chub (*Gila seminuda*), southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii eximius*), and the Yuma clapper rail (*Rallus longirostris yumanensis*).

### *Project Description*

Sithe proposes to construct, operate, and maintain a 750-MW coal-fired power plant and associated facilities, including the new rail spur. The facilities at the power plant site would include a fuel-supply system; a single 750-MW generation unit; water intake structures, distribution pipelines, and evaporation ponds; a plant cooling system; power transmission interconnection facilities; and waste management operations. Approximately 2,500 acre-feet of water per year would be required for cooling and other plant operations. The water would be supplied by existing water rights that have been purchased for the project. The development of the water supply and the water-supply pipeline were addressed in the previous EIS. To enable distribution of power to the southwestern United States, the Toquop Energy Project would interconnect with existing 345-kilovolt (kV) and 500kV transmission lines as previously studied.

The 2003 Biological Opinion evaluated and disclosed the potential impacts of the gas-fired power plant. That document analyzed the development of the proposed site, widening and improvements to approximately 14 miles of access road from Interstate 15 to the plant site, development of a well field and approximately 12 miles of buried water pipeline, development of the associated pipeline access road, and extraction of up to 7,000 acre-feet of groundwater annually.

The key differences between the project reviewed in the previous Biological Opinion and the current proposed project are summarized in the bullets below.

- The plant capacity would decrease from 1,100 MW to 750 MW.
- The proposed coal-fired power plant has a different and larger site plan than the previously addressed gas-fired plant to accommodate the coal and coal-handling facilities.
- Water usage by the power plant for cooling and emissions control would be reduced to up to 2,500 acre-feet annually.
- A 31-mile-long rail spur would be constructed for transporting coal to the power plant site.
- Emissions for this coal-fired power plant would differ from those studied for the gas-fired power plant.

BLM requests that the USFWS review whether the proposed construction and associated actions might adversely affect any other federally listed species and requests a list of the federally threatened, endangered, candidate or proposed species that may occur within the proposed action area. An overview map of the proposed project area is enclosed. Maps are also provided as GIS shape files for your use.

We look forward to working with you and your office during consultation for this proposed project. BLM and Sithe Global have retained URS Corporation to assist in development of the EIS and support the Consultation Process for this project. If you have any questions, or require additional information, please contact Bill Morrill, BLM Project Manager at (775) 225-8564, or Doris Metcalf at the BLM Ely Field Office at (775) 289-1852.

Sincerely,

/s/ Jeffrey A. Weeks

Jeffrey A. Weeks  
Assistant Field Manager  
Nonrenewable Resources

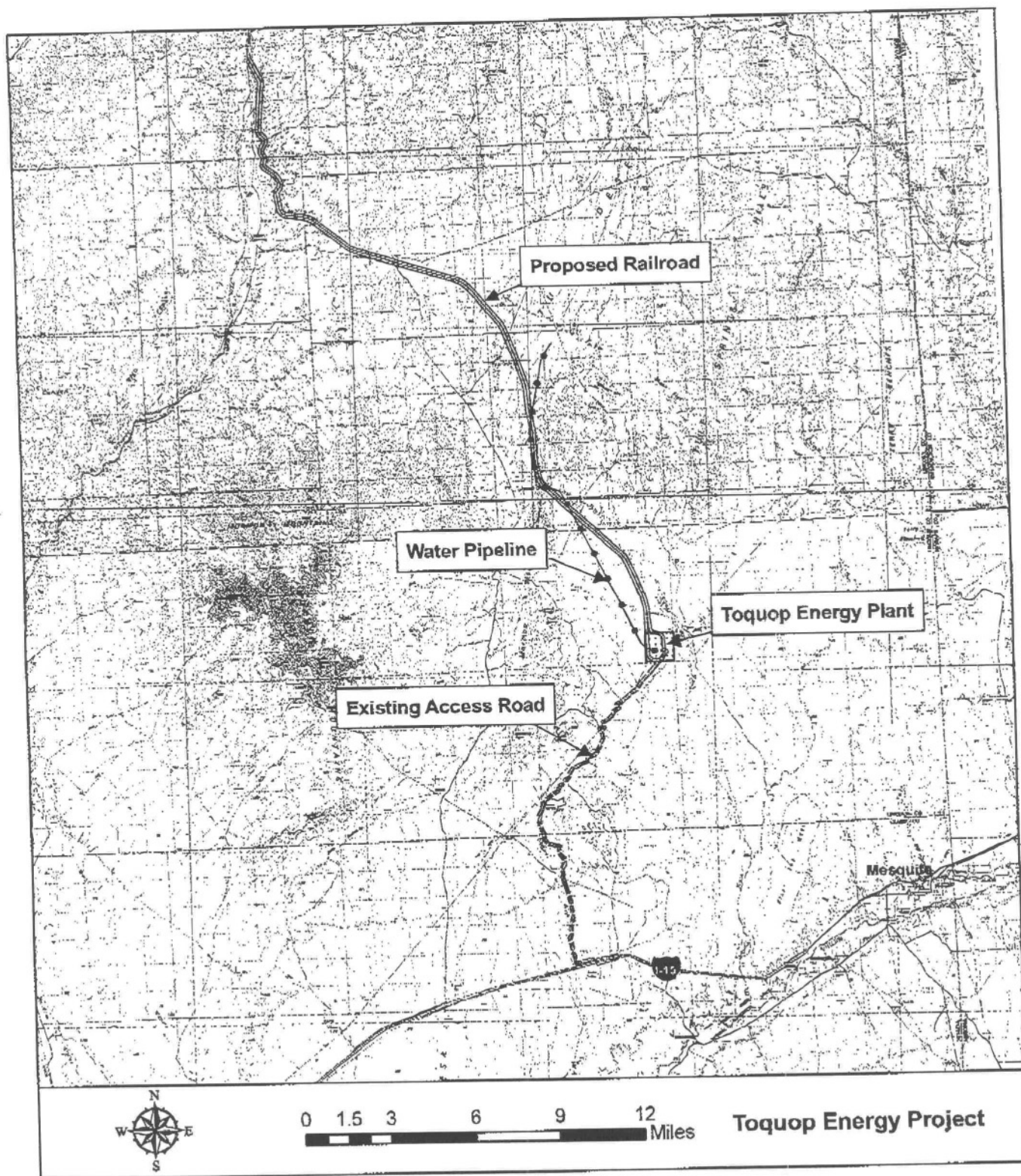
Enclosures (2)

- 1) Map
- 2) CD

cc: Bob Williams, USFWS  
Nevada Field Supervisor

DMetcalf:dam





## TRIBAL CONSULTATION MAILING LIST

### **Dresslerville Community Council**

Mr. Anthony Smokey, Tribal Chair  
1585 Watasheamu Drive  
Gardnerville, NV 89410

### **Duck Valley Shoshone-Paiute Tribe**

Mr. Marvin Cota, Tribal Chair  
P. O. Box 219  
Owyhee, NV 89832

### **Duckwater Shoshone Tribe**

Duckwater Tribal Council  
Ruby Sam, Tribal Chair  
P. O. Box 140068  
Duckwater, NV 89314

### **Confederated Tribes of the Goshute Reservation**

Mr. Milton Hooper, Tribal Chair  
P.O. Box 6104  
Ibapah, UT 84034

### **Ely Shoshone Tribe**

Diana Buckner, Chairperson  
16 Shoshone Circle  
Ely, NV 89301

### **Kaibab-Paiute Tribe**

Gary L. Tom, Chairman  
HC 65 Box 2  
Fredonia, AZ 86022

### **Las Vegas Paiute Tribe**

Alfreda L. Mitre, Chairperson  
One Paiute Drive  
Las Vegas, NV 89106

### **Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah**

Tribal Council  
Lora Tom, Chairperson  
440 North Paiute Drive  
Cedar City, UT 84720

### **Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe**

Norman Harry, Chairman  
P.O. Box 256  
Nixon, NV 89424  
Ph: 775-574-1000 Fax: 775-574-1008

### **Reno-Sparks Indian Community**

Reno-Sparks Tribal Council  
Mr. Arlan Melendez, Tribal Chair  
98 Colony Road  
Reno, NV 89502

### **South Fork Band Council**

Ronnie L. Woods, Chairman  
HC 30 B-13, Lee  
Spring Creek, Nevada 89815

### **Skull Valley Band of Goshute Indians**

Leon D. Bear, Chairman, Executive Committee  
3359 South Main Street, #808  
Salt Lake City, UT 84029

### **Te-Moak Tribe of the Western Shoshone**

Te-Moak Tribal Council  
Hugh Stevens, Chairman  
525 Sunset Street  
Elko, NV 89801

**Moapa Band of Paiutes**

Moapa Business Council  
Mr. Dalton Tom, Tribal Chair  
P.O. Box 340  
Moapa, NV 89025

**Wells Band of Shoshone**

Wells Band Tribal Council  
Mr. Nevada P. Penoli, Tribal Chair  
P.O. Box 809  
Wells, NV 89835

**Yomba Shoshone Tribe**

Yomba Tribal Council  
Dennis Bill, Chairperson  
HC 61, Box 6275  
Austin, NV 89310

**Yerington Paiute Tribe**

Yerington Tribal Council  
Mr. Kenneth Roberts, Tribal Chair  
17 Campbell Lane  
Yerington, NV 89447



# United States Department of the Interior

## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Ely Field Office  
HC 33 Box 33500 (702 No. Industrial Way)  
Ely, Nevada 89301-9408  
<http://www.nv.blm.gov/>

In Reply Refer To:  
2850 (NV-043)  
N-77484

KAR 02 2006

LOM 3-1-06

CERTIFIED MAIL  
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Reno-Sparks Indian Community  
Reno-Sparks Tribal Council  
Mr. Arlan Melendez, Tribal Chair  
98 Colony Road  
Reno, NV 89502

Dear Chairperson:

Sithe Global Power, LLC (Sithe), a privately held, independent power company, proposes to construct a 750-megawatt (MW) coal-fired power plant in southern Nevada just north of the Lincoln County/Clark County line (see enclosed Project Area Map). The project and associated facilities would be located entirely on public land that is presently managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Ely Field Office; therefore, the project is considered a Federal action requiring review in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA).

As part of our research in preparing the environmental documentation required under NEPA, the BLM requests your assistance in identifying any properties, features, or materials within the proposed project area that may be of concern to the American Indian community. Your input is important to the planning process and we want to be proactive in incorporating your information or concerns into the environmental impact statement (EIS). Any information you can provide would be helpful in the consideration of feasible alternatives and identification of adjustments that may need to be made to the proposed project. For the project team to have adequate time to consider and incorporate the input you provide, we would like to receive your response to this letter within 30 days.

### PROJECT BACKGROUND

In April 2003, the BLM Ely Field Office issued a Final EIS for the Toquop Energy Project (Proposed Toquop Land Disposal Amendment to the Caliente Management Framework Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Toquop Energy Project, March 2003). The project analyzed in the EIS was a 1,100 MW natural gas-fired

electric power generation plant located on the same site as the currently proposed coal-fired power plant.

Toquop Energy, Inc. proposed the 2003 project to generate electrical power at competitive costs and to ease the near- and long-term shortages of power in the western United States. Since 2003, natural gas prices have increased substantially and are expected to remain unstable, potentially increasing further due to higher exploration and development costs. Newer technology has increased the efficiency of modern coal-fired plants that provide a more stable cost basis for power than that of natural gas.

It was determined by the BLM that although the coal-fired power plant is proposed as a replacement for previously approved natural gas-fired plant, differences in the two facilities necessitated the preparation of a new EIS. These differences, among others, include a larger site plan, 35-mile-long rail spur, and different emission levels.

If you have any questions concerning this project or if you need any additional information, please feel free to contact me at the BLM Ely District Office at (775) 289-1825 or Bill Morrill, BLM Project Manager at (775) 225-8564, at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Jeffrey A. Weeks*

Jeffrey A. Weeks  
Assistant Field Manager  
Nonrenewable Resources

Cc:

Dresslerville Community Council  
Duck Valley Shoshone-Paiute Tribe  
Duckwater Shoshone Tribe  
Confederated Tribes of the Goshute Reservation  
Ely Shoshone Tribe  
Kaibab-Paiute Tribe  
Las Vegas Paiute Tribe  
Moapa Band of Paiutes  
Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe  
Reno-Sparks Indian Community  
South Fork Band Council  
Skull Valley Band of Goshute Indians  
Te-Moak Tribe of the Western Shoshone  
Wells Band of Shoshone  
Yerington Paiute Tribe  
Yomba Shoshone Tribe  
Elvis Wall, Native American Coordinator, BLM, Ely  
Encl: Project Area Map  
DMetcalf:dam



